



*"The Tri-Creek School Corporation and Community ...
Engaged to Learn ... Equipped to Achieve ... Empowered to Succeed"*

January 28, 2021

The Tri-Creek School Corporation is committed to transparency within the legal parameters of protecting staff as well as students. The January 27 statement regarding the recent Title IX investigation, conducted in compliance with Board policy, was released upon completion of the investigation. However, the Board continued to review the impact of the allegations on the superintendent's ability to effectively lead going forward.

The Title IX investigation, stemming from anonymous email allegations, found no evidence of sexual misconduct, sexual abuse and/or sexual harassment on the part of Dr. Rod Gardin. In addition to the information from the investigation concerning the allegations, the Board has received statements from staff members. The Board is in consultation with district administrators to determine the impact of the allegations and to weigh additional input in light of the allegations. At this time, the continued review of this matter has confirmed that there is no evidence of sexual misconduct, sexual abuse, and/or sexual harassment.

It is important to note that some of the individuals involved in the investigation were administrators selected because of their Title IX training, as well as their responsibility under the district's policy. Because of the sensitive nature of the questioning, it was important for the involvement of familiar personnel to interview students to ensure complete information would be provided to adults that they trusted. The identifiable persons with direct knowledge of the allegations, including several teachers, were interviewed. It is important to note that all persons interviewed were told if they had any reason to believe that they were subjected to retaliatory conduct, to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator.

Due to the negative impact these allegations and investigation have had on his ability to effectively lead the School Corporation at this time, Dr. Gardin has requested and been granted an immediate administrative leave by the Board. With Dr. Gardin's absence, the Tri-Creek School Corporation will move swiftly to name an interim superintendent.

Again, the Board is legally bound to protect the privacy of its staff, as well as its students. The Board has no additional comment at this time as this is an ongoing review of pending matters. However, in a continuing effort to be responsive and transparent, information that can legally be shared, will be when appropriate.